



Department of Pesticide Regulation



Paul E. Helliker
Director

Gray Davis
Governor
Winston H. Hickox
Secretary, California
Environmental
Protection Agency

April 19, 2002

WHS 02-03

TO: County Agricultural Commissioners

SUBJECT: DELAYED RECEIPT OF 2001 DOCTOR'S FIRST REPORT OF
OCCUPATIONAL INJURY OR ILLNESS REPORTS

As reported by Danny Merkley in DPR's March and April reports, in August 2001, the Worker Health and Safety (WH&S) Branch staff lost access to Doctor's First Reports of Occupational Injury or Illness (DFROII) as a result of a policy change by the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). For several months, WH&S Branch and the Occupational Health Branch of the Department of Health Services (DHS) worked with DIR on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to regain access to the DFROII's. DIR, DPR and DHS recently signed the new MOU granting DPR and DHS access to the DFROII's.

WH&S Branch plans to assign 2001 case numbers to those cases that would have been retrieved in 2001 if access to DFROII's were not interrupted. Assigning case numbers in this manner will avoid distorting annual statistics for both 2001 and 2002. We expect approximately 100 new 2001 statewide cases (0-20 cases per county) to be assigned for investigation within the next four to six weeks. We understand that many of these cases are very old and may be difficult to investigate. We suggest that you screen cases with dates of injury earlier than November 2001 through telephone calls, and assign complete investigations only if the information indicates that you will be able to collect useful information.

We request that you investigate these cases and submit the reports by August 2002. This will assist us in completing our review and classification of 2001 illness and injury cases and complete the annual report.

Thank you for your assistance in dealing with these cases. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Don Richmond by telephone at (916) 445-4192, or by e-mail at drichmond@cpdr.ca.gov.

[Original signed by C. Andrews]

Charles M. Andrews, Chief
Worker Health and Safety Branch
(916) 445-4222

cc: Scott T. Paulsen, Pesticide Enforcement Branch
Daniel J. Merkley, County Agricultural Commissioner Liaison
Don Richmond, Worker Health and Safety Branch

FLEX YOUR POWER! For simple ways to reduce energy demand and costs, see <www.cdpr.ca.gov>.

